



**Juan S. Gonzalez, Special Advisor to the Vice President on Western Hemisphere Affairs**

Juan Sebastian Gonzalez has served as Special Advisor to Vice President Joe Biden on Western Hemisphere Affairs since August 2013. Juan previously served in the White House as National Security Council Staff Director for the Andes (Bolivia, Colombia, Peru, and Venezuela), where he coordinated U.S. policy decision-making and advised the President's National Security Advisor and Deputy National Security Advisor on matters related to U.S. policy in the Andean region.

Prior to joining the White House, Juan served in various capacities in the Department of State's Bureau of Western Hemisphere Affairs, including Chief of Staff to Assistant Secretary Arturo Valenzuela, Policy Planning Officer, Principal Staff Assistant to Assistant Secretary Thomas A. Shannon, and Colombia Desk Economic Officer.

Juan also served as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Guatemala and worked as a Legislative Assistant to New York State Assemblymember Sam Hoyt (D-144). He received an M.A. with distinction from Georgetown University's Edmund A. Walsh School of Foreign Service and a B.S. from the State University of New York at Buffalo. He is a Term Member of the Council on Foreign Relations and speaks fluent Spanish. He is a native of Cartagena, Colombia.